

With these examples fresh in our minds, we marvel at the strength and character of the Jewish people. Their steadfast determination to rebuild their lives following the Holocaust has given the world a remarkable model of resolve. Through their example, we can glimpse the extraordinary human spirit that rises above the fruitlessness of anger and resentment. With this day and with our deeds we honor that spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Yom Hoshuah, May 5, 2005, and I urge my colleagues, and all Americans, to do the same.

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1268,  
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE-  
FENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON  
TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF  
ACT, 2005

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SPEECH OF

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the inclusion of the REAL ID Act within the supplemental appropriations conference report. The REAL ID Act is an important step towards addressing a significant national security concern.

The inclusion of the REAL ID Act in this legislation will protect Americans from terrorists who seek to exploit weaknesses in our homeland security. By allowing homeland security officials to more closely scrutinize asylum claims and by expanding the grounds for deportation to include additional terrorist related activities, this act makes America more secure. The creation of minimal standards for drivers' licenses will help reduce the use of fraudulently obtained state IDs to access sensitive areas and board aircraft.

Last year, I voted against intelligence reform legislation because of the removal at the last minute of the REAL ID Act. I know Judiciary Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner strongly opposed the removal of the REAL ID Act from that legislation. When many had lost hope, he continued the fight to move the REAL ID Act through the legislative process. I thank Chairman Sensenbrenner for sticking by his convictions, providing leadership on this issue, and ensuring the inclusion of the REAL ID Act within this conference report.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH  
STEFANI

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 9, 2005*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and sincerity that I rise today to honor the late Mr. Joseph Stefani. Known to many as simply "Papa Joe," he was an endearing friend, a successful businessman and beloved member of our community in Merced, California. At the age of 92, Joseph Stefani passed away on Saturday, April 16, 2005.

Joseph Stefani, a life-long resident of Merced, was the son of Italian immigrants Carlo and Annunziata Stefani. He was born October 28, 1912 on his parents' 20-acre farm on Franklin Road. He attended and graduated from Franklin Grammar School, and then continued on to Merced High School. However, before he was able to graduate, the Great Depression forced Joe to leave school in order to earn money to help pay property taxes on the family's farm.

Soon after leaving school to work as a grocery clerk, Joe was hired at the Workingmen's Clothing Store in downtown Merced. After only four years of learning the business, and at the young age of only 24, Joe opened his own store—Stefani's Sport Shop on June 1, 1936. With a lifetime of success and happiness ahead of them, Joe married his first love, Mary Gonella Stefani on February 5, 1938. In the years following, the Stefani's business expanded and prospered. They eventually opened an additional store in the Merced Mall, and in the neighboring communities of Atwater and Los Banos. After 51 years as a downtown merchant, Joe reluctantly retired in 1987. In addition to creating and maintaining a successful business, Joe and Mary created a beautiful family of three children, Bob, Larry and Kathleen.

Throughout his life, Joe Stefani remained committed to the growth of Merced and dedicated his time to countless civic and business committees including the Merced Downtown Improvement Association, and the Merced Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Downtown Rotary Club for more than fifty years and was a Paul Harris Fellow. His service to the community continued up to the time of his passing, as he was currently a member of many organizations including the Merced Elks Lodge, and the Italian Catholic Federation. Throughout his entire life, Joe was a devout Catholic and an active member of Our Lady of Mercy/St. Patrick's Parish. He was instrumental in the building of a new Our Lady of Mercy School which opened in 1956, and in the building of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in

the 1990's. During his life he had the distinct honor of a personal audience with Pope John Paul II which serves as further evidence of his lifelong commitment to his church.

Joe was preceded in death by his beloved wife Mary, his son Bob, and his brother Angelo Stefani. He is survived by his son Larry and daughter Kathleen, both of Merced, his sister Mary Lucich of Merced, his sister Caroline Cugia of Concord, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to join the community of Merced in recognizing Joseph "Papa Joe" Stefani. Our community benefits greatly from the example he set throughout his lifetime of service as a successful businessman who dedicated his life to his community, his family, and his faith.

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COMMENDING SUPERINTENDENT  
BARBARA WEST

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 9, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Barbara West, the superintendent of Voyageurs National Park, as she prepares to leave Minnesota for America's southwest. I thank her for her hard work and know that she will be missed, not only as one who has dedicated her life to preserving our nation's natural treasures, but as a friend.

Voyageurs National Park is one of the crown jewels in our national park system. It contains four large lakes covering forty percent of the park with a series of beautiful islands for one to explore. Voyageurs was named for the French-Canadian canoemen who traveled these waters in their birch-bark canoes. The park's waterways were an important stretch of the "voyageurs' highway" from the Great Lakes into the interior of the western United States and Canada.

With grace and confidence, Superintendent West has done an outstanding job of overseeing and protecting this area so future generations can enjoy its history and beauty. Minnesotans and visitors to our state have benefited from her stewardship of the park and her dedication to community and our natural resources.

Superintendent West, thank you for your years of service. I, along with many who treasure and love our national parks, wish you the very best in your new assignment at the Chaco Culture National Historic Park in New Mexico.